



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a potentially catastrophic global problem. Drivers and solutions to this problem are often recognized as social. High quality, timely and policy relevant social research is needed to explicate this.

The AMIS Hub will implement three strategic processes to meet this need:

1. Development of a critical mass of researchers applying fresh perspectives to the topic of antimicrobials in society, through cross-disciplinary networking, training and mentorship.
2. Implementation and support for empirical research with a focus on partnerships, fieldwork, and theoretical development.
3. Dissemination of findings through academic, policy and public engagement.

The AMIS Hub proposes the development of fresh approaches to the topic of antimicrobials in society.

These will expand the lens of study beyond the traditionally delineated domains of social, biological or clinical into newly configured analytical territory of human-microbial-chemical relations. They will re-cast questions of 'behaviour' as questions of infrastructural relations. They will open up spaces inhabited by other disciplines to allow for an expansion of what is seen as relevant to the roles of antimicrobials in

society. Through a variety of activities, engagements and research encounters, the AMIS Hub therefore aims to provide new ways in which to consider the problem of and potential solutions to antimicrobial resistance.

The AMIS Hub will provide a supporting framework for research development, capacity development and dissemination on this topic. Operating as a platform for any researchers or stakeholders interested in this topic, the Hub also directly funds two projects that will exemplify this work, in Uganda and Thailand. Each country team comprises social scientists with strong track records in the study of antimicrobials and policy-oriented research.



The studies present a unique academic opportunity for in-depth comparative analysis and theoretical development in the social study of antimicrobials and AMR. As a whole, the Hub presents a exceptional opportunity for impactful engagement at the research-policy interface on a topic of global urgency.

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What social research can offer to AMR

Social science has much to offer in addressing AMR. In our AMIS online resource and in our empirical research projects we apply social theories across the themes above. Our methodological approach promotes participant observation – immersion in everyday life – to better understand how antimicrobials are intertwined in societies and individual lives. We explore antimicrobial ‘hotspots’, including hospitals, farms, and factories. We also trace antimicrobial use up and downstream from these sites to understand how these ‘hotspots’ are interconnected.

The Researchers

Clare Chandler | AMIS Hub Principal Investigator

As associate Professor in Medical Anthropology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Clare's research focus has been on the use of antimicrobial medicines and diagnostics in global health. She directs the LSHTM Antimicrobial Resistance Centre and leads the Anthropology of AMR research group.

Coll Hutchison | AMIS Hub co-Investigator

Coll is an anthropologist of science from LSHTM's Department of Global Health and Development. His current research explores the roles of moralising metaphors, modern myths and scientific knowledge in the production of different antibiotics and AMR politics.

Komatra Chuengsatiansup | AMIS Hub co-Investigator

Komatra has researched community health and social policy including community drug use, village health volunteers, and primary care in Thailand. As a medical anthropologist working in the Ministry of Public Health, his works are instrumental in integrating an anthropological perspective in health policy development and implementation.

Luechal Sringernyuan | AMIS Hub co-Investigator

Mahidol University's Health Social Science Department. He has extensive research experience in pharmaceutical use in Thailand, especially self-medication with modern pharmaceuticals in rural communities.

Susan Nayiga | AMIS Hub co-Investigator

Susan is a social scientist with the IDRC in Uganda. Her current research is on understanding the consequences of tackling antimicrobial resistance in Uganda. She is interested in understanding how the imperative to restrict antibiotics impacts care.

Sarah Staedke | AMIS Hub co-Investigator

Professor of Malaria & Global Health, LSHTM and IDRC, Kampala, Uganda. Sarah is a clinical epidemiologist based in Uganda where she has conducted research since 1999. Her research is focused on methods to improve quality of care and fever case management, and novel approaches to prevent and control malaria.

Laurie Denyer Willis | AMIS Hub Research Fellow

Laurie is a medical anthropologist concerned with the urban and political ecologies of health and disease in post-colonial landscapes. Her research explores animal-human relations, religion, and shifting meanings of care.

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